

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 03335 141657Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 TRSE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3757
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ASUNCION 3335

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM PINT PA
SUBJECT: GOP RELEASES PRESIDENT OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

REF ASUNCION 3332

1. THE INVESTIGATIONS POLICE RELEASED ANIBAL RECALDE SOSA,
PRESIDENT OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, AT ABOUT 11:30 AM AUGUST 12.
RECALDE TOLD THE PRESS FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE THAT CHIEF OF INVESTIGATI-

TIONS, PASTOR CORONEL, HAD TOLD HIM TO CEASE HIS OFFENSIVE POLITICAL
ACTIVITIES IF HE (RECALDE) WANTED TO REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY. RECALDE
ALSO SAID HE WAS ABUSED VERBALLY BUT NOT PHYSICALLY DURING HIS
FOUR-HOUR DETENTION.

2. THE POLICE MENTIONED THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS' MANIFESTO QUESTIONING

THE LEGITIMACY OF PRESIDENT STROESSNER'S NEW TERM AS PRESIDENT
(REFTEL)

AS THE MAIN BONE OF CONTENTION. RECALDE'S DETENTION BY THE GOP WAS
ANSWERED BY A FURTHER DEMONSTRATION OF OPPOSITION DEFIANCE ON
AUGUST 13 THEN THE LEADERS OF THE AUTHENTIC RADICAL LIBERALS, THE
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CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND THE FEBRERISTAS ISSUED A JOINT STATEMENT AGAIN

QUESTIONING THE LEGITIMACY OF PRESIDENT STROESSNER'S
REELECTION. THE PRESS HAS CARRIED FULL REPORTS OF ALL OF
THESE HAPPENING.

3. THE AUTHENTIC RADICAL LIBERALS ISSUED A SEPARATE

STATEMENT THE SAME DAY ANNOUNCING THAT ON AUGUST 17 TWO EXILED POPULAR COLORADO MOVEMENT (MPOOCA) LEADERS WILL ARRIVE IN ASUNCION. THE TWO LEADERS, DR. OSCAR FAUSTINO CENTURION AND DR. MARIO L. MALLORQUIN, ARE COMING FROM BUENOS AIRES TO DISCUSS THE FORMULATION OF A NATIONAL FRONT TO OPPOSE THE STROESSNER REGIME. THE FRONT WOULD INCLUDE THE MOPOCO AS WELL AS THE AUTHENTIC RADICAL LIBERALS, THE FEBRERISTAS AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. THE CREATION OF SUCH A FRONT, IF INDEED IT OCCURS, WOULD REPRESENT A FURTHER CHALLENGE TO THE GOVERNMENT AS THE MOPOCOS ARE SAID TO HAVE MORE ADHERENTS WITHIN PARAGUAY THAN THE OTHER THREE OPPOSITION GROUPS COMBINED. A MOPOCO PRESENCE COULD ALSO PROMOTE INTERNAL STRAINS WITHIN THE RULING COLORADO PARTY. THE TEMPTATION FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO DISRUPT WHAT COULD BECOME THE FIRST EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION CHALLENGE IN MANY YEARS MAY PROVE IRRESISTIBLE. ACCORDING TO THE SAME ANNOUNCEMENT, DR. CENTURION RECENTLY VISITED WASHINGTON ON AN INVITATION FROM THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON LATIN AMERICA (WOLA).

WHITE

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